



Junior Youth Retreat

April 26-28, 2024

Have you ever had a day where you ask God, the question WHY? Maybe you ask why your friend is suddenly not nice to you. Maybe you ask why you got a certain grade even though you studied. Maybe you ask why you aren't a superstar athlete, or the best singer, or why you don't always get along with your brothers or sisters or parents.

The theme for this year's retreat is "EVEN IF." In Lamentations 3:22, we hear these words from God: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end."

Immanuel Youth
Ministry
2024 Middle School
Retreat
Friday April 26—
Sunday April 28

Lake
Williamson
Christian Center
Carlinville, IL

Director of Youth
Ministries
Jolene
Siebarth, DCE
Jsiebarth@
immanuelstcharles.
org

*"The steadfast
love of the
LORD never
ceases; his
mercies never
come to
an end"*
- Lamentations
3:22

What an amazing God we have. When we ask the WHY question, when we don't know the answers... we know that the love of God NEVER stops. He is with us in all things. In all the "Even If's"... he is always there.

Those are powerful words and a powerful promise. If God says it, He means it.

No matter what else is going on in our lives... no matter what is changing... We know that GOD is with us always. Loving us. Protecting us. Caring for us. What a joy to know that and find security in our Heavenly Father who loves us and cares for each and every one of us... truly, madly, deeply.

The Spring Retreat will focus on those truths as we learn, celebrate, pray, play and explore together! The Spring Retreat is loaded with crazy challenges, interactive Bible study, delicious food, group games, high ropes/zipline, music, superb leaders, all culminating towards a family worship service. ... for ALL 6-8th grade youth!

Encourage your son or daughter to attend...this will be an exciting opportunity for them to see, feel, and hear Jesus, grow in relationships with one another and in their faith all throughout the retreat weekend.

In this packet you will find general retreat details, registration information, medical forms, payment schedule. A complete packet will go out in March to families who register. If you have questions after reviewing the information, please don't hesitate to contact me. We are looking forward to a great time together at the Spring Retreat!

[retreat checklist]

- ☐ **REGISTRATION FORM #1 AND #2 SUNDAY, MARCH 24**
- ☐ **"MEDICAL RELEASE" SUNDAY, MARCH 24**
*** If you already filled out the ILC Youth Medical form for a 2023-2024 event, you do not need a new form
- ☐ **\$175.00 PAYMENT SUNDAY, MARCH 24**
- ☐ **DROP OFF @ IMMANUEL FRIDAY, APRIL 26 AT 3:30P.M.**
- ☐ **ATTEND FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY, APRIL 28 @ 9:30AM**

God's Peace,

Jolene Siebarth, DCE
Youth Ministries

Even If | middle school spring retreat

parent & student information

1. The theme for the 2024 Middle School Retreat is “Even If”, based on Lamentations 3:22.
2. This retreat is scheduled to take place **April 26-28, 2024**. Please meet in the **Sanctuary** at 3:30PM on Friday, **April 26, 2024**. Drivers, youth participants and adult leaders: Please be intentional in arriving at 3:30PM for this meeting. We will return to Immanuel on Sunday, April 28, 2024 around 12p.m..
3. The cost for this event is **\$175.00** and is payable by cash or check (please make checks payable to Immanuel Lutheran Youth Ministry). The \$175.00 payment includes five meals and two nights lodging at Lake Williamson Retreat Center in Carlinville, Illinois, all activities while at camp, high ropes/zip line, a t-shirt and supplies. Students may bring snacks/soda/water that will be kept in a central meeting area. Students MAY bring money to buy their own snacks at the retreat center.
4. Immanuel Youth Ministries strives to keep the costs as low as possible to make the retreat affordable for all youth. We want ALL youth to be able to attend; if cost would keep your child from attending, please reach out. All financial arrangements are kept confidential.
5. In general, there will be **no refunds for cancellations**. Once registration forms are turned in, your student is registered. Due to the nature of retreats, youth should plan to attend the weekend in its entirety.
6. Throughout its duration, the retreat will involve a diverse developed structure of activities, programs, and Bible Study. Participants are expected to respond and participate in a manner that reflects a Christian witness and example. All rules and regulations of Lake Williamson Christian Center, their staff, and Immanuel leadership will be followed. Cooperation is expected. Failure to cooperate is judged fairly by Immanuel’s Adult Leadership. Final discipline measures include immediate removal from the facility by the student’s parent or guardian.
7. Youth and their friends in grades 6, 7 and 8 are welcome to attend this retreat.
8. All forms and payment are due in by **Sunday, March 24, 2024**. Payment and all forms can be turned in at the church office. *** Payments may be made online or by check/cash.
9. Housing at Lake Williamson will be in dorm style housing. Rooms are furnished with a combination of bunk beds and double beds.
10. **Any video games, electronic games, cell phones, etc are to be left at home.** It is important for youth to be able to connect with those on the retreat. Adult leaders will have their phones available as points of contact for emergencies. If a phone needs to be brought, it stays away for the duration of the retreat.
11. Any damage to the facilities and/or equipment will be the responsibility of the individuals involved.
12. **Family Worship Service-** On Sunday, April 28, 2024 beginning at 9:30AM, parents and family members of youth participating in “Even If” are encouraged to attend a special Family Worship Service. This special worship experience unites parents and other family members with their son and/or daughter at the conclusion of the weekend retreat. Parents will pick-up their son and/or daughter from the Family Worship Service at Lake Williamson Christian Retreat center. Our prayer is for all parents to attend this worship opportunity with their child. Please mark the appropriate box on the “Retreat Registration” form if your family will attend this special family worship service. Maps to the retreat center will be made available. If you are unable to attend the family worship service and require travel arrangements to be made for your son or daughter please mark the appropriate box on the “Retreat Registration Form”.
13. **DRIVERS ARE NEEDED.** In order to transport a potential group of 50+ junior high youth we need adult volunteers who will help with transportation needs. Drivers would assist with transportation to and from camp. Please mark the appropriate box on the “Retreat Registration” form if you are able to assist. You will be contacted if your assistance is needed.
14. **ADULT LEADERS** -Adult leaders are responsible for the care and nurture of their small group and Immanuel’s larger group at the Spring Retreat. Any parent can apply to serve as an adult leader. Forms for prospective Adult Leaders will be available beginning February 11.

Even If

participant registration form #1

Middle School Spring Retreat 2024

Youth Name _____ Gender _____
First Last Middle Initial
School _____ Grade _____ Birth Date ____/____/____
Parent/Guardian Name(s) _____
Address _____ City/State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone _____ Parent Work Phone _____
Parent Mobile Phone _____ Parent Mobile Carrier (i.e. Att, Sprint) _____
Youth Mobile Phone _____ Youth Mobile Carrier (i.e. Att, Sprint) _____
Parent Email Address _____
Youth Email Address _____
T-shirt in Adult Size ☐ Small ☐ Medium ☐ Large ☐ Extra Large ☐ Extra-Extra Large

[parent help]

- ☐ I can drive to Lake Williamson Retreat Center from Immanuel on Friday, April 26, 2024. I can take _____ number of youth in my car.
- ☐ I can drive back to Immanuel from Lake Williamson Retreat Center on Sunday, April 28, 2024. I can take _____ number of youth in my car.
- ☐ Our family is planning to attend the Family Worship Service at Lake Williamson on Sunday, April 28, 2024. We will transport our teen home.
- ☐ Our family is unable to attend the Family Worship Service at Lake Williamson on Sunday, April 28, 2024. Please make transportation arrangements for me son/daughter.
- ☐ I would like to serve as an adult leader. Please contact me if help is needed (all adults will be notified by April 1. Adult leader cost is \$75 and due by April 7.)
- ☐ I would like to serve as an adult leader and also part of the steering committee to help plan and lead at the event. Adults wishing to serve on the steering team will be contacted by March 5 if help is needed.
- ☐ **Payment is \$175 and due at registration. _____ Payment is attached _____ I am paying online**

[roommate preference]

Although roommates are **not guaranteed**, please list **two-four individuals maximum (FIRST AND LAST NAME)** that your son or daughter would be interested in rooming with. Names over and above the four will not be considered. There will be an adult leader or high school youth present in each room.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Even If | participant registration form #2

consent & agreement

Middle School Spring Retreat 2024

[parent/guardian section]

I hereby give consent that my child _____ be permitted to participate in Immanuel's Middle School Spring Retreat. I understand that this event is chaperoned and under the direct supervision of Immanuel's Youth Ministry leaders and Lake Williamson Center staff. I understand that the cost for this event is \$175.00 and is payable by cash or check. I have gone over the information in this packet with my child, and agree to follow the rules and policies for this event as stated.

PARENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

[permission for treatment]

I understand that I have a duty to provide primary accident and medical insurance for myself (or for my child) and I declare that I am (or my child is) covered by primary accident and medical insurance. My permission is granted for the minister or sponsor(s) in charge to obtain necessary medical attention in case of sickness or injury to my child.

I, the undersigned, do hereby verify that the above information is correct and I do hereby release and forever discharge all sponsors and employees of Immanuel Lutheran Church from any and all claims, demands, actions or cause of action, past, present, or future arising out of any damage or injury while participating in the Middle School Spring Retreat, April 26-28, 2024.

PARENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

YOUTH SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

[youth covenant]

1. As Christians, we will treat each other with love and respect, building each other up in love.
2. We promise to help each other in a friendly way and really listen to each other.
3. We will ensure one another's privacy by not entering the sleeping quarters of others when not invited—no couples will be alone in sleeping quarters. No boys in girls rooms and vice versa. We will deal with problems by going to the person first, then to a friend, and then to those in authority.
4. We will be fun, friendly and flexible.
5. We will obey all rules set by the Lake Williamson and Immanuel Youth Ministry including: full participation in all events; no use of alcohol or illegal drugs; always travel in groups of 3.
6. We will dress in a way that is God-pleasing.
7. Anyone who does not abide by this covenant may be sent home at their own expense and may not be allowed to further participate in any of the activities. No refunds will be given if someone is asked to leave.

I promise to live by this covenant as I experience the 2024 Middle School Spring Retreat on April 26-28, 2024.

YOUTH SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____